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Cedars, December 2011

Cedarville University

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CEDARS

The Student Newspaper of Cedarville University

December 2011

The Man Behind the Whistle

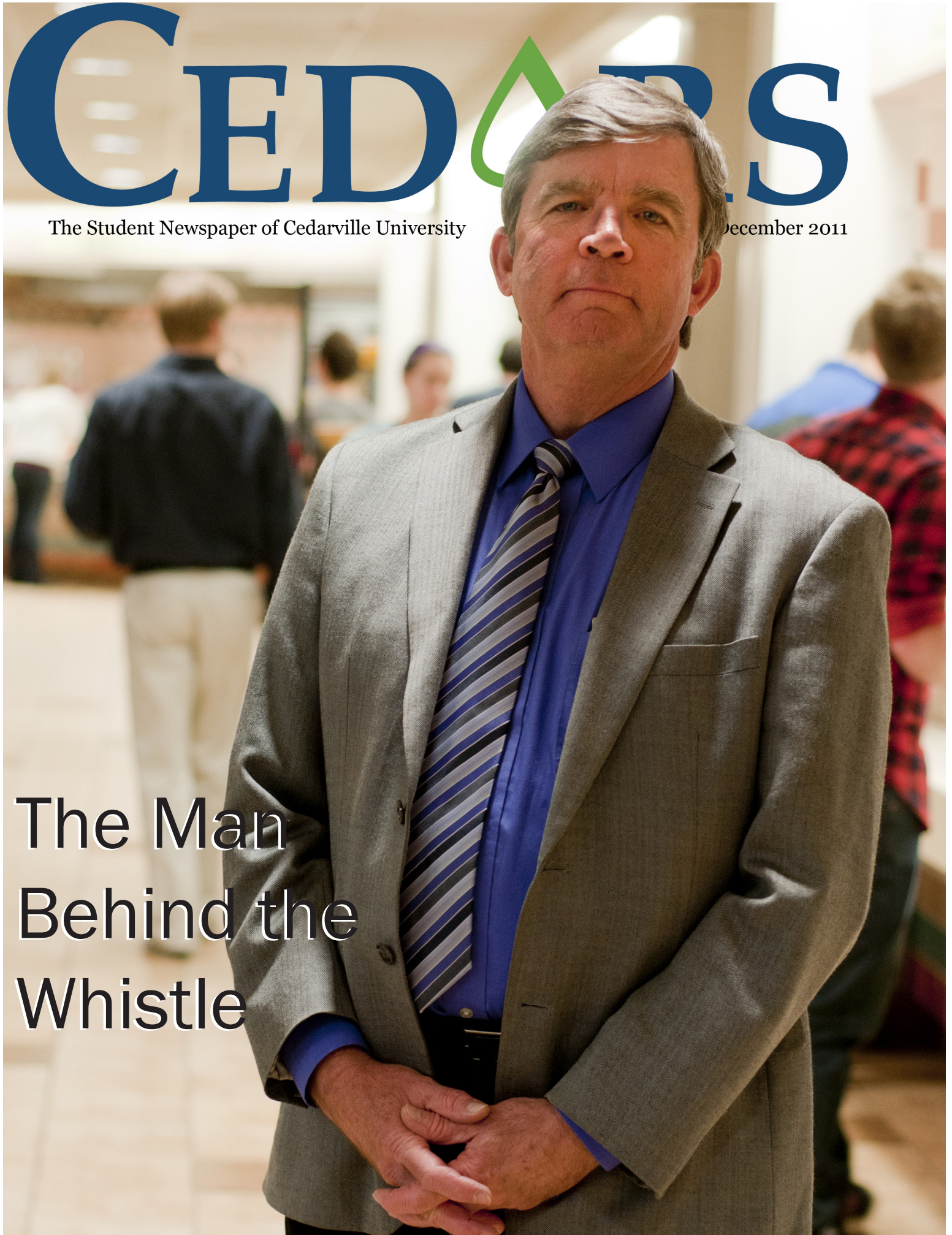


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CEDARS

Emily Severance

Managing Editor

Rachel Stephens

Assistant Managing Editor for Visuals

Bekah Cvetich

News Editor

Zack Anderson

National/International Editor

Holly McClellan

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Jesse Silk

Sports Editor

Jonathan Bundy

Chief Copy Editor

Joe Grom, Doug Brown

Web Developers

Jeff Gilbert

Faculty Adviser

Just Sayin' ...

Certified Creeper

Christmas is coming up so I feel the need to point out something about the holiday that must be stated: Santa is a total creeper. He sees you when you're sleeping ... he knows when you're awake ... and he sneaks down your chimney in the middle of the night. Why do people like this guy? I'd be calling the cops and getting my baseball bat ready for Santa to come, not leaving him cookies!

If anyone knows anything about creepers, it is definitely me. Because I was a creeper long before that word became popular. I embodied the definition of stalker in grade school, and I am pretty sure everybody knew it at the time but me.

It all started with me having a crush on a boy named Nathan Hippenmeyer in fourth grade. He had a bowl cut, which back then was like the haircut of the gods. Nick Carter from the Backstreet Boys had one, so of course I was immediately attracted to Nathan's mushroom-shaped do. But maybe a little too attracted.

I kept after this kid for three full years. The first year, I drew pictures of me blowing up and sicking wild tigers on the girl he liked (because she was not me, of course). I bought him pizza flavored Goldfish for his birthday, because I crept enough to find out his birthday and favorite snack food. And this is before the days of Facebook.

The next two years were the worst. I remember I bought the matching bride and groom Beanie Babies and wrote Mr. and Mrs.



Bekah Cvetich

Hippenmeyer in the tags. Then I put them in glass showcase containers and displayed them on my shelf next to a purple heart-shaped frame with his school picture in it ... that I used to dance with to N*SYNC songs.

That's also when I started writing him creepy love poems and songs about how much I was in love with him; I tried to hide them too. I started writing them from the back of the book forward and wrote "normal" poems about school and America in the front so no one would see the ones about him in the back. I wrote them all out in my neatest handwriting in a green spiral-bound notebook, because I knew green was his favorite color, and twisted the end of the metal spiral into a heart at the top; then, the last day of school before I moved away, I gave the notebook to him at recess.

While I am sure the sappy poetry and songs indicating my terrifying obsession with him scared him enough, nothing could be worse than the note I wrote to him on the first page. It explained my feelings for him, and I confessed the two pieces of information I knew about him that made me a certified creeper: I told him that I had memorized both his parents' license plate numbers. The scary part is ... I still remember them. AET 8840 and AYX 6623. No, I am not still in love with the kid. I just happen to have a ridiculously good memory.

Years later, I can look back and laugh at this, though just writing this makes me scared of my former self. So I suppose as a child I was a lot like Santa. The only difference is people want to give him cookies for his creeping — people just want to give me restraining orders.

Watch for a new issue of Cedars every month.

Newsstands are located on the upper and lower levels of the SSC.

More news is online at ReadCedars.com



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December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
					Parents Weekend	
4	5 • Jazz Band Concert	6 • General Recital	7 • Spanish Night of Worship	8 • Interruption with Steven Chambers • University Opera Ensemble Concert	9 • Jr. Recital Deanna Ruman and Jan Plumley • Christmas Open Dorms	10 • Christmas Open Dorms • Campus Christmas 2011
11	12 • Composition Recital • Pinterest Party	13	14	15	16	17
		Final Exams — No Chapel				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Campus Christmas 2011

9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.



Photo by Andrew Bash

Chuck McKinney says he expects to retire after another year or two of serving the Cedarville student body. He started at Cedarville in 1980.

The Man Behind the Whistle

By David Wright

Most students know him as the namesake of the Cedarville cafeteria, the man with a signature whistle who keeps an ever-watchful eye on Chuck's. Chuck McKinney is a Cedarville icon, but few know anything about him beyond his presence pacing the cafeteria.

Though Chuck has been rumored to have attended Cedarville University, he actually graduated from Mount Vernon University in 1977. He received a degree in church music and a minor in youth ministry.

Because of his musical background, Chuck said he used to be regularly involved with chapel. He sang for chapel often, he said, but has refrained in the past few years.

"Once you reach the age of 60, some of the talents you used to have are less than what they were," Chuck said. "So I can put that on another shelf, from another life."

Chuck's love for music may be one of the reasons why he is constantly whistling. He said he has only started whistling within the past three or four years.

"I don't really know why," Chuck said, "I guess it's my nerves. A lot of times I'll whistle whatever I was listening to on the radio when I came in in the morning."

When Chuck started college, he said he didn't have music or food in his career plans; he aspired to become a dentist. This dream didn't quite meet his expectations, he said, when he entered his first college math class. The professor he had was terrible, he said, and although he had liked math in high school, the professor really turned him off to that field of study.

Chuck then decided to pursue education, but he said he didn't feel called to that occupation either. At that point, Chuck started studying church music, where he ended up staying.

After completing a two-year associates degree at Mount Vernon, Chuck said he was drafted in 1971 and spent 16 months behind the Berlin Wall. He said he does not have pleasant memories from his experience in Germany. He said it "was not one [he'd] like to repeat."

After completing his service, Chuck returned to Mount Vernon to finish his degree. Besides playing varsity basketball for the university, Chuck said he became a student manager for the cafeteria. Because of that, he said, he formed a great relationship with the owner of Pioneer Food Company, a relationship that allowed Chuck to secure his current job after college.

While Chuck said he never imagined himself in his current job, he said, "It's kind of funny, but I've pretty much worked in food all my life. My first job I worked at a Burger Chef which is like a McDonald's, from that I went to an Alber's grocery store as a carry-out boy, then college."

Chuck's first year as the manager of the Cedarville cafeteria was 1980. At this time, Chuck said the cafeteria was in Tyler. The gym was right next to the cafeteria, so the students could watch basketball prac-

tice as they ate dinner. It was just called "the cafeteria."

He said the story of how the cafeteria got named Chuck's started with aprons. Around 1990, Chuck said he used to employ around 400 students. So he ordered a large amount of aprons from a company, and they informed him that he could place a free embroidery on each one. So instead of telling them to write, "The Cafeteria" he just told them "Chuck's." It just caught on after that, he said, and the tradition lives on to this day.

Chuck begins his day at 5 a.m. He arrives at Cedarville about 7 and said he begins the day by walking around the cafeteria chatting and joking with the students eating breakfast and with his employees.

One of the first things Chuck does, he said, is address the comment cards. He said he looks at every single one and takes them into consideration.

Chuck said a huge part of his job is public relations. He takes the time to converse with the occasional student or to handle any confrontation in the cafeteria, he said. Chuck must also help keep his staff together and functional. He takes occasional walks around the kitchen area to make sure everything is working the way it should be, he said, and that employees are doing their jobs.

Chuck said he eats meals with his employees. He small talks, jokes, and also talks business with them.

But sometimes a slight issue will arise between students and employees that Chuck will deal with, he said. For instance, Chuck had to mediate in a situation where employees had gotten a bit out of line and were messing around a bit too much.

"I like to have a good time" Chuck said, "but the focus has to be on the job."

Chuck said he keeps in mind what he taught his children when he trains new employees.

"When I raised my children, when I train my assistants, my favorite thing to share with them is people will give you exactly what you're willing to except. No more. No less," Chuck said. "If you let your kids get away with murder, they're going to get away with it. If you hold them to the line, they'll know where the line is. Same thing with employees; if you don't show them that it matters to you, it's not going to matter to them."

As a manager, Chuck said that he has had the "good fortune in the course of 30 years to develop a strong base of employees that are good at what they do, so they don't a lot of overseeing all the time – especially my assistants. I expect loyalty from my employees, but I'm very loyal back to them. I treat them fairly."

Since Chuck does take his job seriously and the jobs of his employees, he may sometimes come off a bit harsh. But Patti Beam, Chuck's personal assistant, said that is far from the truth.

"Chuck is a neat guy," Beam said. "He wants people to think he

"Chuck is a neat guy. He wants people to think he doesn't have a heart but he does. He absolutely does. He does a lot of things that people don't know about."

Patti Beam

Chuck's personal assistant



Photo by Andrew Bash

Chuck doesn't do as much of the meal planning as he used to do. He relies heavily on Chef Jerry because "he has a better feel and touch" for the job.

doesn't have a heart but he does. He absolutely does. He does a lot of things that people don't know about."

Chuck, along with Beam, said his job has many facets.

"I have three employers," Chuck said. "I work doing my best to keep students happy, I work doing my best to keep the college administration happy, and the company I work for expects me to keep both happy while making a profit. And that is a challenge, especially with the food demand increases."

Chuck said he used to be almost completely in charge of the menu selection, but over the years he has given some of this over to his chef Jerry, although Chuck does have the final authority on what meals will be provided. Chuck said "he has a better feel and touch" for the food selection job.

Chuck's favorite meal at Chuck's was a "big vat of soup, beans, ham, and cornbread." However, Chuck said this course was not very well received by students and is no longer served.

Chuck is provided with a SGA Culinary committee that helps him to determine what foods are most popular and what are not. He said he also keeps very good "production records" so he knows how much of certain courses students eat.

"The key is to provide a good quality product, and still make a profit," Chuck said. "There's a balance. You have to be somewhat flexible and adjust to your clientele."

Sometimes the clientele do the unexpected, Chuck said. One such event happened when the cafeteria was still in Tyler years ago. During a midnight breakfast near the holiday season, Chuck said he dressed up as Santa Claus and walked through the cafeteria "pitching candy canes" at the students. At that point, students began throwing things back at him, and soon the entire cafeteria broke out in a food fight. With a smile, Chuck said he didn't plan on doing that again any time soon, "not after that

"Plan for tomorrow. Live for today. Tomorrow's always going to be there, but you have to take care of today's responsibilities – and also enjoyments. Enjoy being young – I did. Don't take yourself too seriously. ... Worry about the things that will matter."

Chuck McKinney
Philosopher

"I've traveled for the company and supervised other Christian schools — I'll take this bunch any day."

Chuck McKinney
Manager of Chuck's

experience."

Though Chuck said he has enjoyed his time working at Cedarville, he feels like the time may be coming for him to step down.

"It really makes you feel old when someone walks up and says 'you fed me thirty years go or twenty years ago, and I'm taking my son back to look at the college.'"

Chuck said that he is 60 now and will probably retire from his position in one or two years.

"I'm sure they'll find somebody that's more up to date and that can do the job with greater ease and more professionalism and can relate better."

After retiring, Chuck said he doesn't think he'll be back at Cedarville as much, because he doesn't want to interfere with whoever is in charge. However, he said he has told the company that he'll work to help get the next manager acclimated to his job and work as a resource person in case people had questions.

"It'll do fine [without me]... the company that I work for will guarantee that. They're very caring people."

Chuck said he will miss working at Cedarville.

"Oh yeah, I put in ten to twelve hours a day, five to five and a half days a week, so that's a pretty big part of my life," Chuck said. "My wife's scared to death that I'll be bored. But I keep telling her I'll find enough to do... so we'll see."

Chuck said retiring will give him some free time to enjoy pastimes like golf and fishing, traveling and spending more time with friends and family.

In the meantime, however, Chuck said he hopes to continue faithfully serving Cedarville students. He said he also hopes they will take his advice for their lives.

Chuck said he understands what it is like to get carried away with dreams for the future and career plans.

"Plan for tomorrow. Live for today," Chuck advised. "Tomorrow's always going to be there, but you have to take care of today's responsibilities — and also enjoyments. Enjoy being young — I did. Don't take yourself too seriously. If you take yourself or your job or your position too seriously, you've lost the war already. ... I tell my assistants oftentimes, '10,000 years from right now, what will that matter?' Worry about the things that will matter. Worry about the things that you can control, and the things you can't control, do the best you can."

The students are a major part of why Chuck loves his job so much, he said. He will miss them when he leaves.

"I'm very fortunate. The students at Cedarville are phenomenal. I'm spoiled." Chuck said with a smile, "Best bunch of kids in the world. Like I said, I've traveled for the company and supervised other Christian schools — I'll take this bunch any day."

Random Facts about Chuck and Chuck's

- Chuck lives about 9 miles off campus on a farm where he has 13 acres. He grows corn and soybeans and had four meat cows this past year.
- Chuck is married and has three children: two sons and one daughter. All three children attended Cedarville at one time or another.
- One of Chuck's sons is a paratrooper in the military.
- Chuck is a huge Buckeye fan and is loyal to Cincinnati in the NFL.
- Chuck and his wife lead a small group where they and seven other couples meet every Sunday night and discuss different books.
- The Cedarville staff is also seriously considering turning the Hive into a Chick-fil-A. If this were to occur, transfer meals would go away, but the amount of "Chuck's bucks" that students had would likely increase.
- Students ate 1,000 pounds of meat at Chucksgiving.

Male Cheerleaders Seek to Defy Stereotype

By Crystal Goodremote

In August, every male student received an email suggesting that they try out for the co-ed cheerleading squad. Out of all the male students at Cedarville, only 19 showed up for tryouts, and out of those 19 only nine decided to become part of the team.

Why did only 19 of the 1,500 men on campus try out? It could have been because of the time commitment, or it may have been because of the stereotype associated with male cheerleaders.

Cheer squad captain Joe Gallagher said that people here at Cedarville are nice about

“Cheerleading is not a sport, but it does take good athletes to do what we do.”

Joe Gallagher

Cedarville
cheerleader

it, but some will still give you “that look” when they find out that you’re a male cheerleader.

Adam Newborn said that “look” is exactly what drove his friends away from being part of the team.

Newborn, a freshman, said when he and his friends received the email, they decided to try out for the team

as a joke. Gallagher said that’s what a lot of guys do, but then some actually enjoy it and join the team.

Newborn is one such example, though the guys he tried out with chose not to be involved. One of them said his girlfriend wouldn’t like it if he was a cheerleader, and the others said they just didn’t want to be classified as such, Newborn said.

Like Newborn’s friends, Gallagher said he wasn’t sure he wanted to be a cheerleader either. Before coming to Cedarville, Gallagher played varsity sports throughout high school and planned to play in college — that is until he was injured his senior year.

“I played sports, and I was used to cheerleaders cheering for me,” he said. The night of the involvement fair his junior year, Gallagher said he was heading over to talk to the track coach when the cheerleading coach stopped him and suggested that he join the team.

Gallagher said before joining the team he wanted to find out what people thought of male cheerleaders. When asking students around campus what they thought of male cheerleaders, he heard one of two things: that “they are gay or they are perverts who want to touch girls.” He decided to step beyond the stereotypes and join the team anyway.



Photo by Stephen Port

The Cedarville cheerleaders practice six hours a week and perform at men’s basketball games.



Photo by Stephen Port

Caleb Venmen, a sophomore on the team, said that to be a cheerleader you can't let the stereotypes and criticism get to you, but the comments are still hurtful.

Though Gallagher said that cheerleading is "silly," he did say that it is a great way to keep fit.

"Cheerleading is not a sport, but it does take good athletes to do what we do," he said.

Newborn, a rookie to cheerleading, said, "It's a stinkin' good way to work out and get fit because you are supporting weight in unnatural ways."

Cheerleading is also a huge time commitment, Newborn said. Not only are there six hours of practice a week, but there are also individual workouts that each guy has to complete. And of course they also have to attend games to cheer.

Although male cheerleaders bring so much strength and time to their sport, they don't receive the same acceptance as other teams on campus. Newborn said that even though he

likes what he does, he doesn't go around wearing the cheerleading team shirts all the time.

"I may be a cheerleader," Newborn said, "but I don't introduce myself as 'Hey, I'm Adam and I'm a cheerleader.'" He said that if he did, people would put him in a stereotypical box right away.

Caleb Venmen, a sophomore on the team, said that to be a cheerleader you can't let the stereotypes and criticism get to you, but the comments are still hurtful. Gallagher said that the guys on the team realize that they will get made fun of for being on the team.

"Our job is to keep the girl in the air and make sure she looks pretty all the time," Gallagher said. "It's OK if we look stupid as long as the girls look good."

"Our number one goal is to glorify God," Newborn said. "And we do that by serving the

girls."

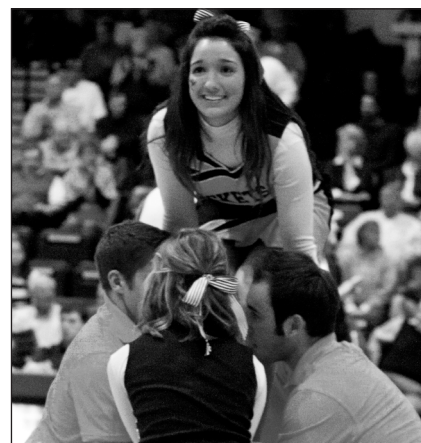
According to senior Eric Thompson, male cheerleaders here at Cedarville do not fit the stereotypes. Cheerleading gives the guys a chance to develop friendships that aren't available on other teams. Venmen agreed, saying that the team members are really close and have "a brother and sister relationship."

Gallagher said the team is full of solid Christian men who are on the team because they either got hurt or weren't quite good enough to play a sport in college. Before anyone joins the team, every guy had to look Gallagher in the eye and tell him that they were there for the right reason — to bring glory to God.

As Thompson put it, the Cedarville male cheerleaders are not the fairy dancing type of cheerleaders at all.

"Our job is to keep the girl in the air and make sure she looks pretty all the time. It's OK if we look stupid as long as the girls look good."

Joe Gallagher
Cedarville cheerleader



Eurozone Crisis a Result of Spending

by Zack Anderson

European countries can't pay their debts, and because many of the countries are connected economically and politically by either the European Union or the common currency of the euro, they all have a vested interest in what happens to their neighbors. This is the essence of what has been going on in Europe since the Greek government was bailed out for the first time with 10 billion euros in May 2010.

But according to Marc Clauson, professor of history and law, the problem started a lot longer ago. He said it began in the late 19th century when European countries began to become social democracies and started to promise to provide their citizens with lots of services.

"As long as Europe was prosperous, they

could fund these kinds of things," Clauson said.

But in the 1960s, prosperity decreased and promises continued to increase, so countries began to borrow more and more, Clauson said. When countries started to run out of money, its lenders started to doubt whether the country could repay them. This can make the country no longer able to borrow more money.

Greece, Italy and Spain are three countries in the middle of the crisis, which is compounded by the fact that they all, along with 14 other European countries, officially use the euro as their currency. Because they use the euro, they cannot necessarily have the monetary policy that is best for them, Professor of Economics and Berry Chair of Free Enterprise Bert Wheeler said.

"It cripples national policy," Wheeler said of the euro. "You really have to have a more global European Union monetary policy, which may not be conducive to what an individual nation needs."

Countries in the European Union and the eurozone, the countries that use the euro, don't necessarily want either union to fail, which is why they have already bailed out Greece, Ireland and Portugal. Wheeler said in addition to the economic concerns, there is a political side to why Europe wants to remain united, as the European Union is an "outgrowth of World War II."

"There's a lot more going on here than just the economic side of things, so they're very leery to want to have the European Union collapse," he said.

What Lessons Can Be Learned?

1. Money Can't Solve Everything

The eurozone agreed in October to increase how much they were willing to give to bailout countries from 440 billion euros to 1 trillion euros. But pumping money into these countries is not necessarily the best way to go.

"You can't spend yourself into prosperity or out of recession," Clauson said. He said it is impossible in the long run to do this.

Wheeler said expanding the bailout package was the wrong thing to do. "They're postponing a day of reckoning," he said. Wheeler also said doing this actually gives countries an incentive to continue in their irresponsible spending.

Along these lines, Associate Professor of Economics Jeff Haymond said Greece has not even tried to get their spending under control. Money "can reduce the real debt burden, but until you deal with the problem of excess spending, you are not going to be able to ultimately address it," Haymond said.

2. If There Is No More Money, Admit It and Deal With It

Haymond said the eurozone crisis is a crisis of insolvency, which simply means countries are unable to pay their debts. It means the countries having problems are bankrupt. But they have not admitted that, and they have not tried to deal with that.

"If you are otherwise bankrupt, you need to go through the steps of declaring where you really are, which is bankrupt, and then take the steps to recover," Haymond said. "And that's the steps that they have not wanted to do."

Both Wheeler and Frank Jenista, professor of international studies, compared what European countries must do to solve their problems to what an individual or family would have to do to solve financial problems. Jenista said the countries have to get their debt under control. He compared this to one spouse in a two-salary family losing their job. "You can't go on going to movies, eating out, buying a new car," he said.

Wheeler said an individual can borrow money for several years, but that they can't do this forever. "You have to start paying back, and when you do, it will significantly affect your standard of living." He said the eurozone crisis is playing out a little differently than a situation like this would because it deals with countries and not families.

3. The Government Can't Always Be Blamed For Everything

The government of each European country that is having problems obviously bears a large part of the responsibility. In fact, the three main countries having the most difficulties — Greece, Italy and Spain — have appointed or elected new governments in the past two months.

"We have a failed leadership. By definition, they have failed in their economic stewardship. That's why they're in this situation," Haymond said of the leaders that got replaced in Greece and Italy.

Even the tax evasion in Greece that has led to that government not bringing in as much revenue as they could can be partly attributed to government. Though Haymond said press reports joke about avoiding taxes being a Greek national pastime, he also said the way the Greek government spends money might be a reason so many evade taxes.

But the people of these countries might be one of the reasons the governments are spending so much. Wheeler said Americans really don't want the government to stop providing services to them and that the same attitude is prevalent in Europe. "The battles may change, but the big picture is not going to change until the culture changes and the individuals within the culture change," Wheeler said.

He said people want more than they produce. "We all do that naturally. It's sin. We just simply do that, so until the people are going to stand up and say, 'No more,' they will continue to do it indefinitely."

— Zack Anderson

Security Measure or Invasion of Privacy?

Airports are implementing 'chat-downs,' which question fliers on travel plans across the country

by Hayley Johnson

Cedarville University students flying home for Christmas can expect that their time getting through security checkpoints will be lengthened because of the implementation of "chat-downs" at airports across the United States. According to several news reports, this new process is sparking concerns of violations of privacy for older fliers while the post-9/11 generation tends to view them as necessary for national security.

In August, a pilot program for this new procedure was launched to test how fliers would respond. The main purpose of chat-downs is to observe the behavior of passengers as they respond to a set of questions posed to them by Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers.

Under the new program, fliers answer a series of questions dealing with why they are going where they're going, where they are from and what brought them to a specific place, all as the officer checks their boarding passes and forms of identity. The officers are on the lookout for behaviors like a lack of eye contact and vocal tremors, which indicate the passenger may have suspicious intentions for wanting to get on the flight.

The chat-down procedure is actually a continuation of a program called Screening Passengers by Observation Technique (SPOT), which has been ongoing since 2007. Through the program, TSA officers observed and talked with passengers while looking for 35 "micro-expressions," such as scrunching of one's eyebrows or intense sweating. From 2007 until now, around 3,000 TSA officers have circulated through 160 airports. However, the program did not produce definitive results, which has led to the implementation of chat-downs.

Responses to the chat-down procedure have been proven to vary by generation. Older fliers have a variety of concerns, with the main one being that they view the questioning as an invasion of their privacy. Many of them believe that it is not the government's business to know where a flier is traveling and for what reason.

This group also objects to the way the TSA treats everyone as a suspect. They feel that American citizens have the right under the U.S. Constitution to move about freely without being subjected to inquiries. Another reason that many of these fliers object to chat-downs

How Do Opinions Differ on Chat-Downs Based on Age?

Older Fliers

- View questioning as an invasion of privacy
- Dislike the TSA's treatment of everyone as a suspect
- Value their constitutional right to move freely
- Regret the lost time



Younger Fliers

- Don't mind necessary precautions like chat-downs
- Understand they are used to identify potential terrorists
- Believe that stringent safety measures means safer skies
- Are willing to sacrifice time for these measures



Source:
usatoday.com

**"Chat-downs
will help identify
potential terrorists
who are nervous
about their plans."**

Daniel Grahn
Cedarville student

is because they are businessmen, and they regret the time that is lost by answering questions when they could be making phone calls or keeping up with emails and texts.

The response of the post-9/11 generation to this procedure has vastly differed from that of older generations. College students across the country generally do not mind having to go through security measures like this because many perceive them as necessary precautions that must be taken in order to keep the skies safe. They don't seem to have a problem with sacrificing the time or hassle that comes with these procedures; they understand sacrifices like these must be made to feel safe.

Cedarville student Daniel Grahn, a frequent flier who has had several experiences with customs agents, agrees with the sentiments of others in the post-9/11 generation in the value chat-downs have in protecting national security.

"Chat-downs will help identify potential terrorists who are nervous about their plans," Grahn said.

He also feels that strict safety measures such as these are necessary to keep America safe.

"The U.S. has been able to remain a terrorism free country for years because of our stringent safety measures," Grahn said. "This country has forgotten that we are at war with the terrorists. When you are at war, you have

to make sacrifices."

The introduction of chat-downs marks a departure in what has been the main focus of the TSA for the last decade: detecting dangerous objects. Focus was put on this after the 9/11 attacks. However, pat-downs do continue, and they have become more aggressive over the past couple of months, which has left many passengers feeling like they have been violated. Many of them cite the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable search and seizure, in urging TSA to back down on the aggressive pat-downs.

Full body scanners, also known as the Gigahertz, are another way airport security officials try to detect dangerous objects. In 2010, there were 40 of these scanners in airports across the country, and that number has been rising rapidly. By the end of this year, there will be a total of 1,000 of them in airports.

These scanners generate graphic images of passengers using radiation technology. The purpose of having fliers undergo these scans is to help identify those who may have weapons hidden underneath clothing that a metal detector might not pick up. Placing these scanners in airports was prompted by the attempt of a Nigerian man to blow up an airliner over Detroit with explosives hidden in his underwear on Christmas Day of 2010.

There are many people who feel that this procedure is too invasive, but TSA has countered these concerns by stating that they take a number of steps to protect the privacy of passengers. First, the faces of passengers are blurred. Second, the images produced by the scanning machine are viewed by screeners in a closed room and cannot be stored. Finally, passengers can undergo a pat-down instead of having to go through the machine.

Federal Loan Changes to Help Students

by John Filcik

President Barack Obama recently announced plans to ease student loan debt for college graduates, plans that will affect Cedarville students and graduates as well.

Creeping over the \$1 trillion mark, student loan debt has recently surpassed credit card debt in America. Many say these numbers call for reform, but it's unclear what kind of reform is needed.

Fred Merritt, Director of Financial Aid at Cedarville, agrees that the current system is not entirely ideal.

"It's a little bit scary," Merritt said, "in that some loan programs are now so easy to get that students can wrack up pretty large student loan balances just because the funds are there."

In an effort to amend the system to some degree, President Obama has announced new financial aid programs that aim to make it easier for college graduates to pay off student loan debt. The new program consists of two main components: a loan consolidation option and a monthly payment minimization.

Two years ago, there were two federal loan programs, but in 2010, Congress abolished the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program, leaving only the Federal Direct Loan Program (Federal Direct) for new borrowers.

Many borrowers who first took out student loans before 2010 were left paying two monthly payments, one for each type of loan. As a result of Obama's new programs, borrowers have the opportunity between Jan. 1, 2012, and June 30, 2012, to consolidate both loan payments into one monthly payment and lower the interest rate on the loans.

It is predicted to affect the over six million people who have at least one Federal Direct Loan and one FFEL. Those in the Cedarville class of 2012 or 2013 who took out student loans before 2010 will be affected and, according to Merritt, should take advantage of this incentive.

"Overall, it's a great program," Merritt said. "Our students will be able to take advantage of that and should because it's to their advantage to do so."

Not only is this part of the program beneficial to borrowers, it also benefits the federal government. The simplification of loan payments reduces risk of default, and the transfer of FFEL loans to the Direct Loan program reduces costs for the Department of Education.

The second change to the existing program involves minimizing monthly loan payments and providing loan forgiveness after 20 years. Under the current system, monthly loan payments are limited to 15 percent of discretionary income. President Obama's new "Pay as You Earn" plan minimizes monthly payments to 10 percent of discretionary income, a plan that the administration estimates will reduce monthly payments for 1.6 million people.

For example, if a Cedarville student with \$25,000 worth of debt were to graduate and obtain a teaching job that pays \$30,000 a year his monthly payment would amount to \$171 under the current system. With Obama's "Pay as You Earn" plan, which goes into effect in January, his monthly payment would be reduced to a more manageable \$114.

The final facet of Obama's plan allows new borrowers who pay monthly payments for 20 years to have their student loan balance forgiven. This is decreased from 25 years under the current plan. Merritt said this wouldn't have a major impact on Cedarville students, however.

"On average a CU student graduates with \$20,000 in debt," Merritt said, "so it's not very impactful for CU students because they will have their loans paid off before that 20-year limit." Merritt said the high-end, student loan debt mainly involves people pursuing postgraduate degrees, whether that is from graduate school, medical school or law school.

Despite the advantages of the current plan, Obama has drawn fire for his unwillingness to allow Congress to vote on the matter. Instead, he announced it in the form of an executive order. Chelsea Gruet, a Cedarville senior, doesn't necessarily find fault with this, however.

"I'm just glad someone's doing something in this economy to help college graduates pay off their loans," Gruet said. "The only thing I'd be cautious about is giving loans to people who really shouldn't have them."

Mike Clark, another Cedarville senior, offered the suggestion that the president needs to maintain a greater focus on securing the initial finances necessary for a student to attend college.

"Loan forgiveness only helps those who were fortunate enough to get into college in the first place," Clark said. "What good is loan forgiveness, though, if you can't even secure a loan? I'd rather see more effort placed into getting kids in school where they will have a better chance to make a living for themselves."

Merritt contended that Obama's plans wouldn't substantially affect the current Cedarville financial aid programs.

"Here at Cedarville, we can put together a financial aid package that makes it possible for every student to attend Cedarville if they're willing to accept that package," he said. "That package will include student loans and may include parent loans, as well."

Obama formally announced his new financial aid programs Oct. 26 in front of an audience of University of Colorado students. He emphasized the effect the programs would have on allowing American young people the ability to go to college, make a future for themselves and not be crippled by student loan payments.

Finally, the President emphasized the economic benefits that would stem from the new programs, both for individual Americans and for the American economy as a whole. It would help young people determine how to afford college, help them have money in their pocket upon graduation and as a result, help them be more confident and able to buy a house and save for retirement.

"[This program] will give our economy a boost at a time when it desperately needs it," Obama said. "[It] is not just important to our country right now; it's important to our country's future."

Student Loan Debt By the Numbers

\$1 trillion Total Student Loan Debt in America	\$20,000 Average Debt for a Cedarville Graduate	6 million People the Loan Consolidation Program is Expected to Affect
1.5 million People the Payment Minimization Program is Expected to Affect	25 Years Till Loans are Forgiven Under Current System	20 Years Till Loans are Forgiven Under New System

Sources: Fred Merritt and www.whitehouse.gov

Analysis: The Future of Libya

Oil production will not affect American gas prices; Libya's government is biggest unknown

by Aaron Flores

The situation in Libya has recently changed with the death of dictator Moammar Gadhafi in October. This has raised questions about what will happen next in regards to oil production and the country's government.

Oil Production and Gas Prices

Students may be wondering when oil will start flowing out of the country and how gas prices will be affected.

Frank Jenista, professor of international studies, said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) still holds a monopoly on the exportation of crude oil and that it carefully monitors the price per barrel to correspond with international demand. This means gas prices will not be significantly affected by the events in Libya.

Libya owns some of the richest oil deposits in Northern Africa. Not only is oil plentiful, but it is also of high quality. During the years of Gadhafi's rule, the country produced about 1.6 million barrels of oil a day, none of which went to the United States. Relations with Gadhafi were poor during his time in power, and the U.S. had other countries from which it could import oil. Most of Libya's oil went to Europe, specifically Italy.

The fighting that took place damaged about 10 percent of Libya's oil-producing infrastructure. Some of the platforms and wells that remained unharmed are back in production, and the country has begun exporting again. Jenista said Libya was producing 600,000 barrels of oil a day, and that production was expected to expand to 800,000 by the end of the year.

But Libya's increased oil production will not profit the people and the country if the internal politics of the country remain in turmoil. The citizens of Libya saw little profit from the oil profits under Gadhafi. Like most dictators, Gadhafi hoarded most of the oil profits for himself and his advisors. There were no national institutions in place to keep him accountable for how he spent Libya's money. His primary concern was exporting oil, and he only exported enough to keep himself, his family and his allies rich and comfortable.

Before Gadhafi's reign, Libya was capable of exporting as much as three million barrels of oil a day, nearly twice as much as the country saw under its dictator. Libya is also rich in natural gas deposits. Gadhafi neglected development of these natural gas reserves in favor of oil. If the new Libyan government can tap into this wealth, things could start looking very attractive for the formerly downtrodden nation.



iStockphoto.com

News websites report the death of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who died in October.

The Country's Government

Libya's government is perhaps the biggest and most significant unknown heading into the future. Gadhafi did not permit any national institutions to govern the country — besides himself, of course. As a result, nearly no power structure exists in the wake of his deposition and death.

So far, peace is being maintained by the military forces, but there are still untamed regions where tribes and their leaders maintain order with AK-47s. Great amounts of distrust still exist between some of the tribes, much of it a direct result of Gadhafi's favoring select groups over others. In general, the country is divided between the east and west regions, with most of the wealth centered around Tripoli, Gadhafi's seat of government.

The people of Libya enjoy a high literacy rate and are very well educated. During the fighting, as well as while under Gadhafi's rule,

they demonstrated resilience, patience, and determination in the face of hardship. The Nov. 22 deadline for the establishment of an interim government has passed, and no doubt the members of that body will be making progress on a new constitution for their nation some time in the near future.

Nothing else about the following months is certain, however. What will the constitution look like? Will it have provisions for freedom of speech and the press? Will it establish an impartial court system? How will it integrate democracy into a culture and people who have very little experience with self-governance?

Furthermore, al-Qaida has a strong presence in Northern Africa, and agents of radical Islam would like nothing more than to turn resource-rich Libya into a puppet for their cause, following in the footsteps of nations like Afghanistan, Iran and Lebanon.

Former Cedarville Star Back on Campus



Courtesy of Cedarville University

Ken Rucker, right, is back at Cedarville working in the Career Services office as the assistant to director Jeff Reep, left. Rucker is a 1993 graduate.

Ken Rucker's journey from Cedarville student to employee

By Jesse Silk

Ken Rucker never envisioned going from the streets of Philadelphia to the corn-encompassed town of Cedarville, but that is exactly how his journey unfolded.

Though he had heard of Cedarville through his high school, Rucker said, "I had no intention of actually attending Cedarville. I didn't even apply to go to Cedarville."

Considering that Rucker not only attended Cedarville as a student but now works here in Career Services, things must not have gone according to plan.

Coming out of high school, Rucker was seeking to fulfill his dream of playing Division I basketball. As time passed, however, the once-ringing phones of Rucker's residence were no longer receiving calls from schools after the high school season had ended. Just when he was seemingly out of options, Liberty University called and told Rucker they would like to give him one of two remaining basket-

ball scholarships.

The other scholarship was reserved for a 6-foot-10 Canadian player, but when Liberty was scouting that player in Canada, they found another player they preferred over Rucker. After they called back Rucker to give him the bad news, he thought, "What am I going to do? How am I going to go to school? I can't afford to pay for it."

Dave Lesko, Rucker's high school counselor, was familiar with Cedarville and brought Rucker to work out with the Yellow Jackets. Though Rucker admits he wasn't high on coach Don Callan's list of recruits at the time, Callan's wife thought Rucker would be a good fit for the team, and Rucker was soon a Yellow Jacket.

"It was quite a bit of a culture shock when I got here," Rucker said. "I never planned on it, but the Lord knew this was where I needed to be. If I wasn't here, there's no telling what would have happened to me back on the streets of Philadelphia. It was meant to be."

Rucker went on to star for the Yellow Jackets, becoming the first player in school history to post 2,000 rebounds and 1,000 points. During his freshman season, the Jackets finished second in the NCCAA National Championship. He was named team MVP three consecutive seasons and averaged 24.5 points and 12.2 rebounds his senior season. Rucker graduated in 1993 and was inducted into Cedarville's Hall of Fame five years later, the minimum amount of time for an athlete to be named to a hall of fame.

"That was awesome," he said. "It was one of those things like, 'Wow, they really recognized my accomplishments.' I was really honored." Rucker's No. 51 is now retired.

After attending Cedarville, Rucker became a math teacher at Simon Gratz High School in his hometown of Philadelphia and earned the Male Outstanding Teacher of the Year award during the 2001-2002 school year. He then became involved in the transportation industry, working as a contractor for FedEx and Wheels

Campus Christmas 2011

SCAB works to involve students in Christmas celebration via new committee, concert

by Holly McClellan

Students travelling to Chuck's for a late Saturday brunch November 19 were surprised to find it had snowed in the SSC.

Along with the typical wrapping paper, lights, trees and ornaments the Stevens Student Center sports this time of year, over 3,000 ping pong balls had sprouted overnight from the ceiling, resulting in the effect of an indoor snowstorm.

Christmas may have still been over a month away, but the Student Center Activities Board (SCAB) has been working tirelessly for months to produce this year's Campus Christmas, a program of yuletide activities to help students beat the finals blues and get into the holiday spirit. Festivities usually include a midnight breakfast, a Christmas concert, holiday open dorms, and lots and lots of decorations.

Senior student and SCAB member Josiah Smith began planning for this year's festivities before the snow even melted from last year. He was joined in his efforts in April by senior Tia Zirkle and sophomore Emily Sears, who along with SCAB director Brian Burns brainstormed through the summer to make Campus Christmas better than ever.

"The first meetings were exciting because we had a lot of big ideas," Sears said.

"And none of the stress!" Zirkle added, saying of the early plans, "They were visionary."

Smith said the trio began taking those ideas out of the "Disney World" scale and into more manageable territory as the year began. To help with this, Smith used 3-D imaging to design the SSC's decorations.

Bringing those plans to reality also encompassed one of SCAB's goals for the year: involving a greater portion of the student body than before. As part of that, the three directors commissioned a Campus Christmas Committee, comprised of students who expressed interest in SCAB last year. These students helped with the planning and execution as Smith, Zirkle and Sears had to simultaneously plan the first two ALT Nights.

"They brought a great level of energy that really helped boost our self esteem," Smith said.

"They're really taking ownership of the project," Zirkle agreed.

Another way in which SCAB is realizing this goal is in the annual Christmas concert. Usually the university will bring in outside bands – such as Denver and the Mile High Orchestra last year – but Smith and Burns began talks last summer on trying something new.

"We came back here and realized we weren't going to have a concert in the traditional sense," Smith said, "so I think we all sort of ran with the idea of doing a student concert."

"The vision of SCAB is trying to create community, and that's the purpose of everything we're doing," Sears said. "So when trying to come up with an event that showcases that as well, the concert really was a perfect fit."

E-mail invitations were sent to the student body asking them to show off their vocal talents, and nearly 50 students auditioned before the committee in a process that Smith jokingly called "just like American Idol." Students came from a wide variety of majors, which played in well with SCAB's goals for this year.

"Auditions were great because we got to hear from a lot of different perspectives," Smith said. "All the auditions were really good and could have been used. I think that's what was encouraging about it because we've been praying about it, and when you're stepping into the unknown, it's fantastic to see the talent that the campus has."

"A lot of unexpected people came out of the woodwork that we didn't even know," Sears said. "It was neat."

Smith said that the concert will be an ensemble piece, including solos with the rest of the group singing backup vocals. Smith said that there will be a good mix of music, including hymns and comedic songs.

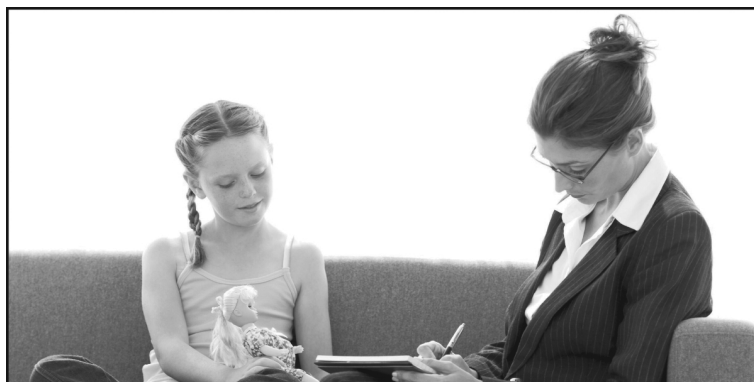
Other than changes made to the concert, Smith said that Campus Christmas will largely be sticking to what students know and love. Many

of the activities such as the midnight breakfast will remain intact, and musical performances at the concert will be interspersed with stories read by Dr. Brown, always a favorite aspect of Campus Christmas.

The three said that the success of this year's efforts has encouraged them to continue engaging more of the campus. Sears said that her favorite aspect of Campus Christmas has been "being able to draw from so many demographics and so many people groups and trying to incorporate as much as possible."

Though the only snow to be seen around Cedarville can be found in the SSC, the long-awaited event is fast approaching, and SCAB is ready to see the fruits of its labors.

"I love the actual running of the events," Zirkle said. "Planning is great, too, but when it comes to D-Day, I just love being there and having the energy of the students."



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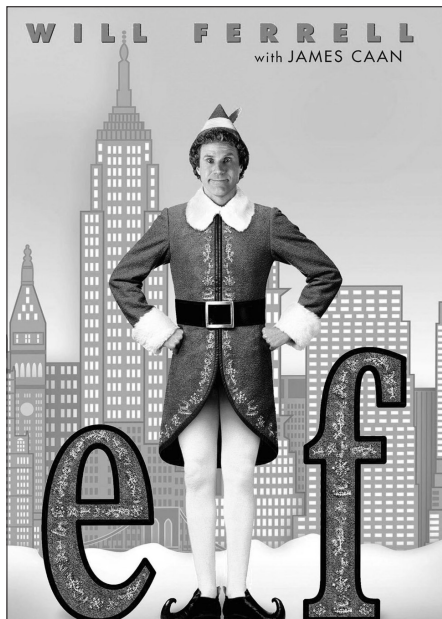
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Reviews: Christmas Movies

by Holly McClellan & Becca Powlus

Elf

Chances are you've seen this movie at least once, if not a hundred times. "Elf" has quickly become a favorite, must-see Christmas movie since its release in 2003. Will Ferrell plays Buddy, a human raised at the North Pole by elves, who travels to New York City in search of his real father. Scene after scene will leave you laughing out loud as Buddy discovers the world around him and ultimately discovers himself. "Elf" centers on the themes of family, friendship, love and acceptance, with heartwarming sincerity and, at times, hilarity. This film is sure to bring a smile almost as large as Buddy's: "I just like to smile. Smiling's my favorite."

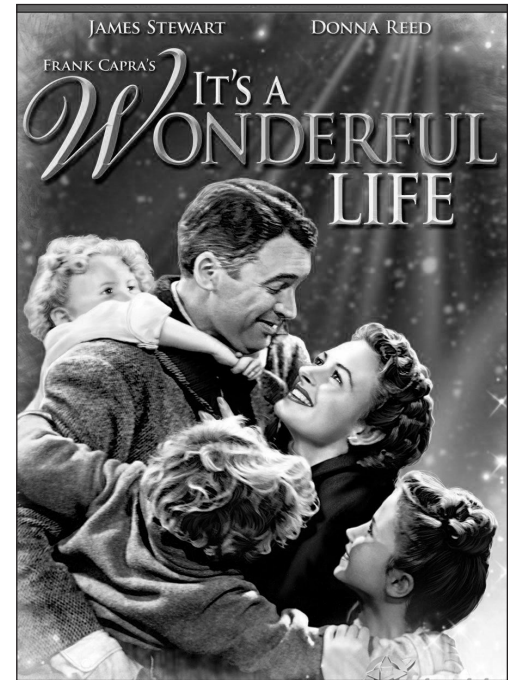


White Christmas

This 1950s classic probably falls into one of two categories: either a vibrant part of your childhood without which no Christmas celebration is complete or just that one old movie you flip through quickly as you surf the channels over Christmas break. No matter which category it fits into for you, this song-and-dance spectacular deserves a second look. Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Vera Ellen and Rosemary Clooney star as entertainers dealing with the ins and outs of falling in love and putting on a show. Though every turn of the admittedly thin plot is simply a reason to sing another song, there's little room for complaint when the songs are as good as they are. The scenery alone is enough to put you in the holiday spirit – and if Bing Crosby's sonorous voice doesn't inspire some manner of emotional stirrings, there may be something legitimately wrong with you.

It's a Wonderful Life

It's become a tradition in many homes to watch "It's a Wonderful Life" every Christmas season. George Bailey, played by James Stewart, is a compassionate, yet frustrated and depressed man who had big dreams that he never achieved. After a series of events and a visit from an angel, George is given the opportunity to see what life would have been like if he had never been born. "It's a Wonderful Life" captures the audience's sympathies and leaves the viewers with a deep appreciation for life, family and purpose. Bringing laughter as well as tears, this film is one each person should see at least once, if only to be reminded of the value of every life.

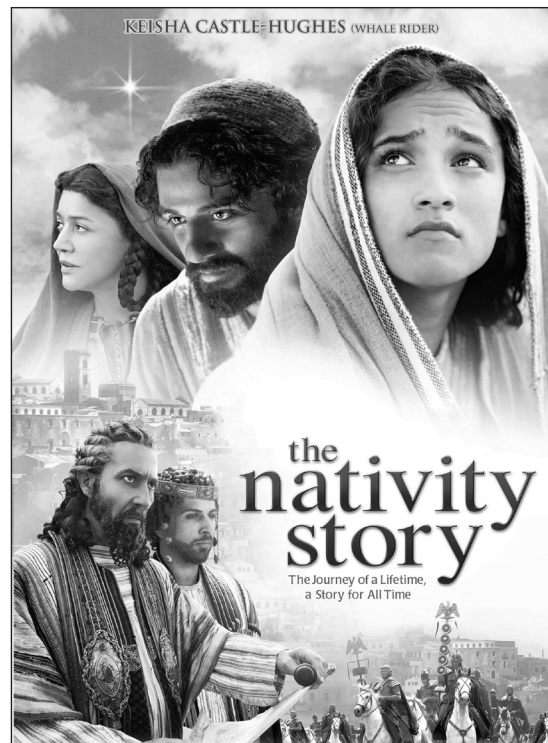


I'll Be Home for Christmas

While it may not be the most popular Christmas movie, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is a simple, entertaining Disney production that is well worth watching. Starring Jonathan Taylor Thomas and Jessica Biel, the movie involves a college student's frantic race to get home for Christmas in spite of a parade of humorous obstacles. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is an enjoyable film about growing up, going after what you want and discovering the importance of family.

The Nativity Story

This visually stunning and emotionally affecting 2006 release is undoubtedly one of the best representations of the birth of Christ, lending humanity to what can often become just the story we read each year before tearing into presents. Its exploration of the lives of Mary and Joseph before and during that fateful trip to Bethlehem gives modern viewers a taste of the truly shameful circumstances surrounding the Savior's birth, and the strength and faith required of His earthly parents. Well-acted and beautifully rendered, it's an excellent film for escaping the holiday madness and remembering the reason we celebrate.



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

In all its vintage animation glory, this blast from the past tells the familiar story of the ultimate Christmas curmudgeon (other than Scrooge), who mistakenly believes he can stop the celebration of Christmas simply by making

off with the trappings. But of course in the end, the indomitable community spirit of the pointy-nosed townspeople warms the Grinch's two-sizes-too-small heart with a message about as altruistic as you can get without overt reference to the Bethlehem story. Re-watching this holiday classic provides all the fun of Dr. Seuss's linguistic magic without the white-knuckled terror incurred by the Jim Carrey-helmed live-action version. Unfortunately,

some things just can't be unseen.

Movie Review: 'Puss in Boots'

by Tina Neely

Puss in Boots, the beloved sword-fighting sidekick from the Shrek franchise, has finally starred in his own animated film. "Puss in Boots" is a prequel to the Shrek films, showing us what it was like for Puss before getting tangled up with the famous green ogre.

Similar to Shrek in its unique retelling of familiar fairytales, this film revolves around Puss in Boots' relationship with his childhood comrade Humpty Dumpty and their mission to set right past wrongs. Together, they and a third outlaw named Kitty Softpaws take on Jack and Jill in a battle for the magic beans. The goal of the two groups is to steal eggs from the golden goose in the giant's castle, but Puss in Boots wonders if he can trust Humpty, who betrayed him before.

At the beginning of the film, I felt the humor was written for a younger audience, but some of the insinuations were adult to say the least. This mixing of age-appropriate and ma-

ture humor happened in the Shrek movies as well, so it shouldn't have been a surprise. Still, I was startled at first, thinking of the kids in the crowd. Regardless, the witty dialogue and situational humor made me and the other five Cedarville 20-year-olds laugh out loud here and there. The whole audience was prone to chuckling. "Puss in Boots" is definitely a movie to watch if you want to smile, but not so much if you're in an intellectual mood.

The plot isn't deep or cunning, but if entertainment is what you seek, consider watching this delightful animated film to pass the time. It had an overall fun atmosphere and is great for any awkward couple couch date. But a warning to the highly critical: don't watch it if you expect the best of the best. Overall, "Puss in Boots" scores three out of five stars. It was good, but not excellent. It was funny, but I could think of 100 other movies I'd rather watch if I want to laugh.

A side note: My favorite character is the random cat that says, "Oooh!" If you watch it, I'm sure you'll agree.



The plot isn't deep or cunning, but if entertainment is what you seek, consider watching this delightful animated film to pass the time.

Music Review: Neulore's 'Apples & Eve'

by Becca Powlus

Liking the concept of a concept album is easy. Neulore's EP, "Apples & Eve," is even easier to admire. Hailing from Nashville, Neulore is a folk/indie band that formed in 2009. "Apples & Eve" was their first fully-produced work.

The album consists of seven songs written to Eve from Adam's perspective. Beginning with the track "I Will Come Alone," the work is a raw expression of shame, detachment, betrayal and loss of innocence.

On the band's website, an explanation of "Apples & Eve" is provided: "Something happened when Eve accepted the fruit from the serpent. Something more than the proverbial fall, something more than the rift between God and man. The bliss of the garden spiraled into accusation, desire and heartbreak." Thus, the album explores what that downward spiral meant to the first man and woman.

The second track, "Eve," depicts the emotion Adam felt upon discovering what Eve had done by taking the fruit from the serpent. Lines such as "I caught you wielding serpents 'round your thighs" and "Tempt me, tempt me, fallen bride/Take the apple from my eye" reso-

nate with a haunting sense of honesty.

Neulore furthers Adam's personal response to Eve in the song "Rib," in which Adam declares, "I gave you my body/Now my bones are rotting," alluding to the rib that was taken from his side to form Eve.

It's not just the lyrics that portray these emotions of shame and regret. The music itself tells the story, and you can almost envision the scenes of the original man and woman taking the fruit, hiding and eventually leaving the beautiful Garden of Eden.

"Apples & Eve" concludes with "Garden Gates," sending Adam and Eve out from the garden. The song leaves the audience pondering the dread the pair faced as they were forced to leave the garden. These words ring in the mind long after the final note: "As we departed garden gates/And stared into the sun/How much longer shall we wait/'Til walk becomes a hurried run?"

From start to finish, "Apples & Eve" draws the listener in and keeps a tight grip on attention. With beautiful piano solos blended into a mix of compelling melodies and lyrics and vocals full of depth and authenticity, this first work by Neulore is a well-crafted concept album that will not be easily forgotten.

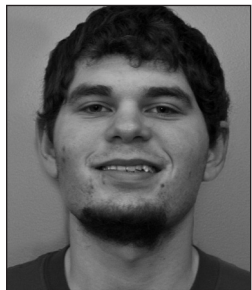


'Apples & Eve' draws the listener in and keeps a tight grip on attention.

Do American Christians Worship Nationalism?

by Jesse Silk

Those of us who have grown up in the United States have probably been immersed in patriotism since our youth. We recited the pledge of allegiance in school, stood respectfully during the playing of the national anthem and observed all the holidays that commemorate the American cause. It probably never occurred to us that our love for the good ol' U.S.A. could be an ideological downfall; if anything, it was something we fostered and enjoyed as the 4th of July fireworks exploded in the night sky.



Though we no longer recite the pledge of allegiance in homeroom, patriotic sentiments still abound in our environment. After watching television for half an hour, you're bound to find a program or commercial paying homage to American soldiers. At several professional football games, the American flag covers the entire field before the game starts and fighter jets fly over the stadium. We still observe the American national anthem by removing our head-coverings. As someone who often wears a hat, sometimes I forget if the reason I'm holding it in my hand is because someone is praying or because something "American" is transpiring.

"America the Beautiful" even found its way into chapel. I'm sure we all hope for God to "shed His grace" on the United States just as we desire grace to be given to the rest of the world, but there seems to be an exclusive element to the song. Otherwise, from that perspective, it should be called "World the Beautiful." It would be interesting to see someone raise their hands when singing the patriotic anthem; after all, it is a praise song, just to a different entity.

Something so simple and unintentionally mundane as the pledge of allegiance can be quite profound. In third grade, all the students in my class would stand to say the pledge of allegiance — all except one. One day, after we finished pledging and took our seats, I asked the student why he chose not to recite the pledge. "I only pledge my allegiance to Allah," he said. My eight-year-old brain didn't quite know what to make of the situation, and the thought lay dormant until recently. Now I look back and realize that he was on to something.

Consider the true meaning of "pledging allegiance" to something. Logically, should it not communicate a promise of loyalty? And loyalty that is divided isn't really loyalty at all. Sure, we are loyal to our family and friends, but they are people, not ideologies. Tension exists when we realize we have allegiances to multiple greater purposes; in this case, they are patriotism and Christianity. We would like to think that one can complement the other, but the track record of each indicates that only one is worthy of our allegiance.

Truly considering this issue should cause us to ask ourselves some difficult questions. Should the system of politics, which is not only undeniably corrupt but by nature must also overlook the individual in order to affect the masses, be a pursuit of Christians? To what extent should we individually practice the concept of "separation of church and state"? As far as war is concerned, how are we justifying the right to take a life of another image-bearer? More importantly, why are we trying to justify that in the first place?

When I use the words "we," "us" and "our," I am referring to the body of Christ. The frequent use of the word "we" in reference to America, especially the American government, can be dangerous. The motives and causes of the United States government are often too different from those of believers to identify the two as synonymous purposes.

Instead of realizing the dissonance between the two, Christians overwhelmingly see a moral attack on the government as an assault upon Christian standards. For example, the idea of gay marriage is appalling to believers, but if we really wanted to protest the sanctity of marriage, we'd improve our atrocious divorce rate. Furthermore, we'd put our money where our mouth is and realize that our own marriages do not need a government certificate to be validated by God. Christians have an opportunity to create an entirely different institution by marrying solely through the Church, but we are neglecting it because of our misunderstanding of "us." Human marriage is incredibly important, but it is not the root issue. It is the fruit of a greater question: to what higher power do we truly belong?

While the concept of "we" indeed emphasizes the importance of the Church, the only way to change how "we" behave is one individual at a time. It is much simpler and more accurate to discern how I can provide for the poor, love the sojourner and maintain the sanctity of marriage in my own life than it is to dwell on murky decisions that affect over 300 million people. It is "I's" that make up the "we" of the Church, and when we start living how we ought to be, the Church will be the primary agent of change in society, not the government.

Should Christians Keep Santa in Christmas?

by Rachel Stephens

I love Christmas. So much so that I have a tendency to annoy the grinch people around me. I listen to Christmas music when I feel like it (September) and merrily ignore the naysayers. On top of that, I still have an unashamed love for all things Disney, and color pictures of princesses to de-stress. It is no surprise, therefore, that I am a fan of Santa Claus. Not that I really believe in him.



Growing up my parents never pretended that Santa exists. They didn't put "From Santa" on our presents, and we didn't leave out milk and cookies on Christmas Eve. Instead, we read the Christmas story from Luke and set up nativity scenes around the house. However, they didn't demonize him, either. We watched *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Santa Clause* and fully enjoyed them. My parents knew that we understood what Christmas was really about, and knew that the story of Santa Claus wouldn't spoil that.

The question at hand is not really whether or not Santa exists. I'm not arguing that exploration of the North Pole would find a giant toy shop and bakery. Santa does not exist in the traditional sense. The Air Force can't catch his flying reindeer and no camera will catch a picture of him coming down the chimney. Santa is not a real person in a real sleigh eating real cookies. But somehow Santa is still more real than you and I.

You don't have to believe in Santa to appreciate what he is. Santa is joy and goodness and generosity. As long as there are imaginative children and creative adults, he will exist. He is the symbol of childhood innocence and imagination. A world with Santa is a world in which anything is possible. And isn't that really what we want?

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood" (Francis Pharcellus, *The Sun*, September 21, 1897).

Owl City Visits Cedarville



Photos by Stephen Port

Owl City came to Cedarville University on 11/11/11 to entertain Cedarville students and other guests. Days Difference, a pop/rock band from Virginia Beach, Va., opened for Adam Young (pictured) and his band.